

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00070 131755Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05 /093 W

----- 076856

P R 131620Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3632

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AG, MO, SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA AND ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN RELATIONS: NEW
DEVELOPMENTS

1. PAST SEVERAL DAYS IN SAHARA HAVE GIVEN ALGERIAN MEDIA
LITTLE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT, BUT PRESS AND TELEVISION HAVE
MADE MOST OF FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. FIGHTING CONTINUES: WHILE TAKING NOTE OF TURNOVER
OF DAKHLA (VILLA CISNEROS), MEDIA CONTEND THAT FIGHTING
BOTH IN THIS REGION AND ELSEWHERE IN REGION CONTINUES.
MOST INCIDENTS CITED SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN DECEMBER,
BUT PRESS JAN. 12 REPORTS, WITHOUT DATE, DESTRUCTION OF
MOROCCAN T-54 TANK ON ROAD LINKING EL MSIED TO BOULRET
LAHMITE. TANK IDENTIFIED BY NUMBER AND NAMES OF ITS FOUR
CREW MEMBERS, THREE OF WHOM KILLED, ALSO GIVEN. PRESS
CONTINUES TO REPORT POLISARIO ATTACKS INSIDE MOROCCO.
GUERRILLAS CLAIM TO HAVE OPERATED AS FAR NORTH AS AKAA
TO NORTH OF FOUH EL HASSAN. ALSO, RADIO CLAIMS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ALGIER 00070 131755Z

JAN. 13 THAT RAIL LINE LINKING MAURITANIAN IRON MINES WITH

NOUADHIBOU SABOTAGED. FINALLY, PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE NAMES OF MOROCCANS CAPTURED IN FIGHTING. IN TV INTERVIEWS, SOME OF THESE MEN HAVE DENOUNCED MOROCCAN IRRIDENTISM AND SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF POLISARIO.

B. MAURITANIA COLONIZED: MEDIA REPORTS POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE ALLEGING THAT PRESENCE OF MOROCCAN TROOPS AND ADVISERS IN MAURITANIA IS EVIDENCE OF MOROCCAN EXPANSIONISM AND OF OULD DADDAH'S SELL OUT OF MAURITANIA TO MOROCCO.

C. FRENCH CONNECTION: MEDIA CONTINUE TO CASTIGATE FRANCE FOR ALLEGED ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS. ON JAN. 11, PRESS REPORTED THAT TWO FRENCH SOLDIERS, PIERRE CEGURO AND JEAN-PAUL DIEF, CAPTURED NEAR EL AYOUN. POLISARIO SPOKESMAN QUOTED AS SAYING THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED "PRISONERS OF WAR." "SOLIDERS" ARE IN FACT YOUNG FRENCHMEN DOING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE WHO WERE TRAVELING ON VACATION IN MOROCCAN SOUTH.

D. US CONNECTION: IDENTIFICATION OF US WITH IMPERIALIST EVEL DOINGS IN SAHARA BECOMING INCREASINGLY SPECIFIC IN PRESS, TV AND RADIO. ARRIVAL OF TWO 6TH FLEET DESTROYERS IN TANGIER NOTED PROMINENTLY.

E. MOROCCAN IMMIGRANTS GIVEN ALGERIAN NATIONALITY: LEADING NEWS ITEM JAN. 13 WAS GOA'S DECISION TO GRANT ALGERIAN NATIONALITY TO 5,000 MOROCCAN IMMIGRANTS. NEWS ITEM ACCOMPANIED BY EDITORIAL LINKING ACTION TO "MAGHREB OF PEOPLES" THEME AND NOTING THAT THIS MAGNANIMOUS STEP TAKEN EVEN THOUGH MOROCCANS HAVE EXPELLED 90 PERCENT OF 200,000 ALGERIANS WHO WERE LIVING IN MOROCCO AT TIME OF ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1962.

F. SENEGALESE OPPOSITION FOR POLISARIO: MEDIA ANNOUNCED JAN. 12 THAT OPPOSITION SENEGALESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD RECOGNIZED POLISARIO AS SOLE AUTHENTIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN SHARA HAD AFFIRMED RIGHT OF SAHRAOUI PEOPLE TO SELF DETERMINATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ALGIER 00070 131755Z

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH STRATEGIC SITUATION IN SAHARA APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE FROM ALGERIAN POINT OF VIEW, IT MAY BE THAT POLISARIO IS AT LEAST SCORING SOME OF TACTICAL SUCCESSES CITED ABOVE. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS SEEM STILL TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL IN SAHARA UNDER POLISARIO AUSPICES. LIKE ALGERIAN MEDIA, THEY REPORT THAT BASIC POLISARIO ADMINISTRATION EXISTS IN "LIBERATED" AREAS.

3. GRANTING OF NATIONALITY TO 5,000 MOROCCANS RESIDENT
HERE IS GOOD PR GESTURE, PARTICULARLY IN WAKE OF
EXPULSIONS OF LARGE NUMBERS OF MOROCCANS.

4. ONE ALGERIAN PRIORITY IS TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN
MAURITANITIANS AND MOROCCANS AND TO MAKE FORMER
REALIZE THAT SAHARA GAME IS NOT WORTH CANDLE. ONE OF
MAURITANIAN PRISONERS INTERVIEWED ON TM SPOKE OF
INCONGRUITY OF SAHRAOUI FIGHTING SAHRAOUI. PARKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, INTERVENTION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER00070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0305
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaacepv.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA AND ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN RELATIONS: NEW DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AG, MO, SS, XI, US, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006